

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings or claims in the application.

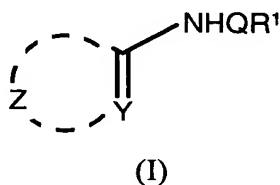
Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A colour photographic element comprising at least one light- sensitive silver halide emulsion layer or a non silver-containing light-insensitive layer, in which at least one of these layers contains a colourless heterocyclic compound having either one or two hetero atoms in the ring or ring system, being other than an imidazole compound, that undergoes less than 10% chemical or redox reaction directly with oxidized developer and which has a partition coefficient to enable the photographic speed of the element to be increased by at least 0.03 stop without increasing granularity, compared to the same element without the compound.
2. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1 wherein the compound having either one or two hetero atoms in the ring or ring system undergoes less than 5% chemical or redox reaction directly with oxidised developer.
3. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in either of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1 wherein the compound is contained in the most light-sensitive layer of two or more light-sensitive layers having the same spectral sensitivity.
4. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1 wherein the compound is located in the green record wherein the maximum spectral sensitivity to light is from 500 to 600nm.
5. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1 wherein the silver halide comprises silver iodobromide.

6. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims of claim 1~~ wherein the compound has a partition coefficient to enable the photographic speed of the element to be increased by at least 0.10 stop without increasing granularity, compared to the same element without the compound.

7. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims of claim 1~~ wherein the compound is selected from the class consisting of a thiazole, thiophene, pyrrole, furan, oxazole, pyrazole, pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, oxazine, thiazine, diazepine, oxazepine, thiazepine, pyrrolopyrimidine, quinoline, benzoxazole, naphthyridine, benzoxazepine, indole and benzothiazole.

8. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims of claim 1~~ wherein the compound has the formula (I):-



wherein

NHQ is selected from the class consisting of amido, ureido arylamino, carbamate or sulfonamido;

R¹ is a substituent;

Y is carbon or nitrogen; and

Z represents the atoms necessary to complete an unsubstituted or substituted five-, six- or seven-membered ring which may form part of a fused unsubstituted or substituted ring system, the ring or ring system containing either one or two heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which may be bridgehead atoms;

provided that if Y is carbon, Z contains one or two heteroatoms but if Y is nitrogen Z must not contain more than one heteroatom.

9. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 8 wherein Q is or contains an electron-withdrawing group.

10. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in either of claims 8 and~~ of claim 9 wherein Q is or contains a carbonyl or a sulfonyl group.

11. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 10 wherein, when Q is or contains a carbonyl group, the ring or ring system represented by Z contains one or more electron-withdrawing groups.

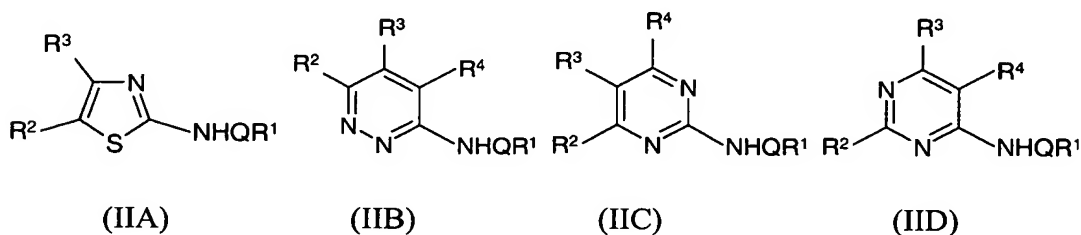
12. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 10 wherein, when Q is or contains a sulfonyl group, the ring or ring system represented by Z is unsubstituted or contains one or more electron-withdrawing or electron-donating groups.

13. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 8 wherein, when Q is an aryl group, the ring or ring system represented by Z contains one or more electron-withdrawing groups

14. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of claims~~ of claim 8 ~~to 13~~ wherein Y is a nitrogen atom.

15. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of claims~~ of claim 8 ~~to 14~~ wherein Z represents the atoms necessary to form an unsubstituted or substituted thiazole, pyrimidine or pyridazine ring.

16. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element as ~~claimed in any one of claims of claim 8 to 15~~ wherein the compound has one of the formulae (IIA), (IIB), (IIC) and (IID):-



wherein

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently selected substituents; and
 NHQ is selected from the class consisting of an amido, ureido
 arylamino, carbamato or sulfonamido group.

17. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element as ~~claimed in~~ of claim 16 wherein R^1 is selected from hydrogen and an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, or alkyl- or arylamino group.

18. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element as ~~claimed in either of claims of claim 8 16 and 17~~ wherein, when Q is a carbonyl group, R^1 is an alkyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted with an unsubstituted or substituted aryloxy group.

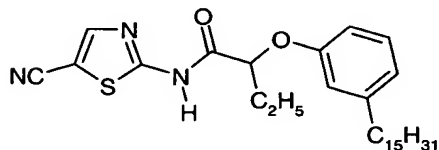
19. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element as ~~claimed in either of claims of claim 8 16 and 17~~ wherein, when Q is a sulfonyl group, R^1 is a substituted aryl group.

20. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element as ~~claimed in either of claims of claim 8 16 and 17~~ wherein, when Q is an aryl group, R^1 is an alkoxy group.

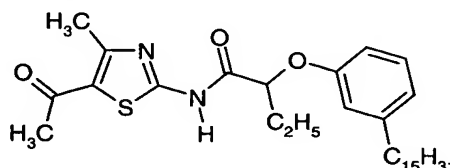
21. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 20 of claim 16~~ wherein at least one of R² to R⁴ is an electron-withdrawing group.

22. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in claim 21 of claim 16~~ wherein R² to R⁴ are independently selected from hydrogen and the class consisting of cyan, formyl, keto, carboxylic acid, mercapto and unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkoxy- or aryloxy-carbonyl, alkyl- or aryl-carbonyl, alkyl- or aryl-thio, alkyl- or aryl-sulfoxyl, alkyl- or aryl-sulfonyl, alkyl- or aryl-carbamoyl and alkyl- or aryl-carbonamido or two of R² to R⁴ may join to form a fused ring which does not contain any heteroatoms.

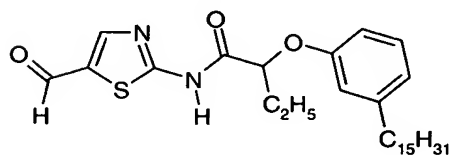
23. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims of claim 1~~ wherein the compound having either one or two heteroatoms is selected from the group consisting of



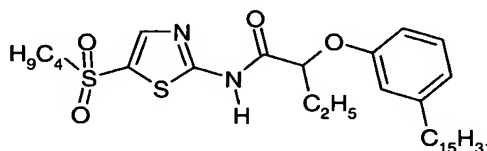
SGA1



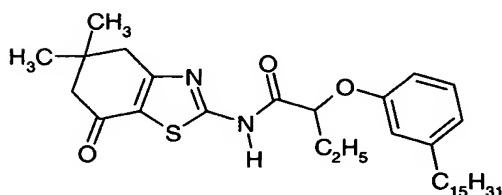
SGA5



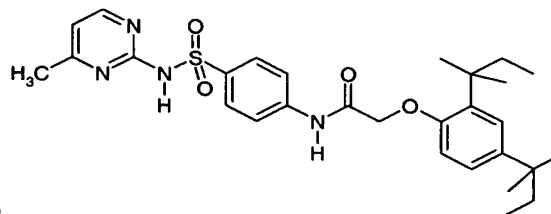
SGA6



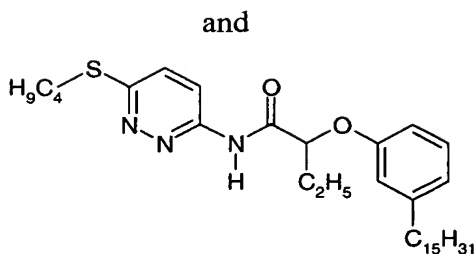
SGA8



SGA9



SGA32



24. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1 wherein when the compound is present in a sensitized layer the ratio of compound to silver is at least 0.1 mmol compound per mol of silver halide.

25. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of claims of claim 1 to 23~~ wherein when the compound is present in a non-silver-containing layer the laydown of the compound is at least 3×10^{-5} mol/m².

26. (currently amended) A multi-colour photographic element comprising a support bearing yellow, magenta and cyan image-dye-forming units comprising at least one blue-, green- or red-sensitive silver halide emulsion layer having associated therewith at least one yellow, magenta or cyan dye-forming coupler respectively, wherein the element ~~is as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ may contain a non silver-containing light-insensitive layer, in which one at least of these layers contains a colourless heterocyclic compound having either one or two hetero atoms in the ring or ring system, being other than an imidazole compound, that undergoes less than 10% chemical or redox reaction directly with oxidized developer and which has a partition coefficient to enable the photographic speed of the element to be increased by at least 0.03 stop without increasing granularity, compared to the same element without the compound.

27. (currently amended) A process of forming an image in a colour photographic element ~~as hereinbefore defined~~ after the element has been imagewise exposed to light, comprising contacting the element ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 26~~ with a colour developing agent, wherein the element comprises at least one light-sensitive silver halide emulsion layer or a non silver-containing light-insensitive layer, in which at least one of these layers contains a colourless heterocyclic compound having either one or two hetero atoms in the ring or ring system, being other than an imidazole compound, that undergoes less than 10% chemical or redox reaction directly with oxidized developer and which has a partition coefficient to enable the photographic speed of the element to be increased by at least 0.03 stop without increasing granularity, compared to the same element without the compound.